

REMARKS

The Election of Species Requirement of January 14, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the above-referenced application and are all subject to the Election of Species Requirement.

Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the above-referenced application on September 11, 2001, but that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 that accompanied that Information Disclosure Statement has not yet been returned to the undersigned attorney. It is respectfully requested that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 that evidences the same be returned to the undersigned attorney.

Election of Species Requirement

As noted above, claims 1-34 of the above-referenced application are subject to an election of species requirement. The Office has identified three species of invention:

- 1) defining at least one aperture through a preformed polymeric film before positioning the preformed polymeric film over a semiconductor device;
- 2) defining at least one aperture through a preformed polymeric film while (*i.e.*, simultaneously with) positioning the preformed polymeric film over a semiconductor device; and
- 3) defining at least one aperture through a preformed polymeric film after the preformed polymeric film has been positioned over a semiconductor device.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the first species; *i.e.*, defining at least one aperture through a preformed polymeric film before positioning the preformed polymeric film over a semiconductor device.


It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-22 reads on the elected species of invention, with claim 1 being the most generic claim of the species.

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It is further submitted that claim 1 is generic to each of the three species that have been identified by the Office. In the event that claim 1 is found to be allowable and remains generic to each of the identified species, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 11, and 23-34, which read on Species 3. must also be allowed.

An early action on the merits of claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-22 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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